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Royal Commission on Matters of Health
and Safety Arising from the Use of
Asbestos in Ontario

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NEWSLETTER

February 1982

1. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Written Submissions

The following written submissions have been received by the Commission since the last Newsletter report on this subject (see Newsletter No. 81-5, October 1981). With the exception of "Brief #085," these submissions focus on matters related to workers' compensation. As of February 1, 1982:

<u>Brief Number</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Length of Brief</u>
079	United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America	3 pp.
080	Johns-Manville Canada Inc.	7 pp. + Apps.
081	Mrs. G. W. Herron	1 pg.
082	Injured Workers' Consultants	13 pp. + Apps.
083	Mr. J. Pagnello	3 pp.
084	Asbestos Victims of Ontario	32 pp.
085	Ontario Ministry of the Environment	17 pp. + Apps.
086	Ms. Morag Perkins	2 pp.

If you are interested in reading any of these submissions, we would suggest that you either contact the authors directly or contact Linda Kahn at the Commission office. The Commission's library room is available to anyone wishing to read office copies of submissions.

2. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Public Hearings

- (a) Dr. John M.G. Davis: of the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh, Scotland testified before the Commission on January 15, 1982. The thrust of Dr. Davis' testimony was on the importance of animal experiments and the carcinogenic process of asbestos fibres.
- (b) The Commission can now confirm two hearings:
- (i) Mr. Jim Reis: President of the Asbestos Information Association/ North America will appear before the Commission on Thursday, February 18, 1982, starting at 10:00 a.m.
- (ii) Dr. Paul Kotin: recently retired Senior Vice-President for Health, Safety, and Environment at the Johns-Manville Corporation will appear before the Commission on Friday, February 19, 1982, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Both hearings will take place in Hearing Room 3 on the 21st floor of 180 Dundas Street West, Toronto (second block east of University Avenue -- St. Patrick subway station).

The appearances by Mr. Reis and Dr. Kotin will move the Commission away from its hearings on the health effects and measurement of asbestos and into the areas of standard-setting, enforcement, and implementation. The Commission is working with the Parties granted legal standing on the composition of the list of witnesses to be called in these areas. These hearings will continue into the Spring so as to enable the Parties-with-Standing and other interested individuals to read relevant research studies undertaken for the Commission (see Item 4 below).

3. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Public Hearings on Workers' Compensation

The Commission's public hearings on workers' compensation (i.e., Phases III and IV) will take place in the Spring of 1982. At a meeting held in November 1981 between staff and the Parties granted legal standing with the Commission, the feeling was expressed by all of the labour groups represented there that instead of starting these hearings in December, they would like to defer until the Spring; this would give them the chance to monitor ongoing government activity in this area and the opportunity to consider the research study being prepared for the Commission by Peter S. Barth on workers' compensation before commencing these hearings.

The Commissioners have acceded to this request. Persons who have filed written submissions on workers' compensation have already been informed of this. In the meantime, the Commissioners and staff are reading these submissions with great interest. And, as noted in Item 4 below, the Barth study is about to be published.

4. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Research

On February 15, 1982, the first two in a series of studies being prepared for the Royal Commission on Asbestos will be published. These are:

- Study No. 1 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ASBESTOS DANGERS AT THE WORKPLACE,
by Morley Gunderson and Katherine Swinton (ISBN: 0-7743-6834-9)
- Study No. 2 WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND ASBESTOS IN ONTARIO,
by Peter S. Barth (ISBN: 0-7743-7024-6).

Four more studies will be published within the next four to six weeks. Details will be given in the next Newsletter.

Further information on publications should be addressed to Ms. Linda Kahn, Executive Co-ordinator, Royal Commission on Asbestos, 180 Dundas Street West, 22nd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z8 (Telephone: 416/965-1885).

Copies of studies may be purchased in person at the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario (Telephone: 416/965-2054); or by contacting the Publications Mail Order Service, 880 Bay Street, 5th floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N8 (Telephone: 416/965-6015).

